

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

3rd November 2020

AGENDA ITEM 6.3 –BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2021-22 – SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR AGREEMENT

1. Report

- 1.1 It is the appropriate time to consider performance against the budget for the current year, and the form of the budget to be established for 2021-22. It is necessary to inform CEC of this Council's precept requirement for 2021-22 before Christmas 2020. Considering the budget raises a number of other key strategic issues.
- 1.2 This year's consideration of these matters is more complicated than in recent years because of the following factors:
 - The receipt in the current financial year of windfalls, or unexpected income, of £19120;
 - The loss of income from hire of the Village Hall due to the Covid pandemic;
 - The aging of the Clover Drive play area, and the growing need for a decision as to its future.
- 1.3 As a result of these factors it is proposed that the appended working paper be considered in very broad terms at the November meeting, but that detailed discussion of its content, its implications, and the options that might be available take place in an informal 'working group' session of members to be held in the next two weeks or so, where it is suggested that possible different approaches to the form of the budget be explored, and that the matter be brought back to Council at its December meeting, where decisions can be made as to the form of the budget, the approach to be taken to the use of the windfall sums referred to above, and of course the size of precept for 2021-22.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report and the attached working paper be noted, and that an informal working group session of council members be held during November, leading to a further report to, and formal consideration of, budget proposals and of the precept for 2021-22 at the December Council meeting.

J Steel

Clerk to the Parish Council